

Adam Huntsman to Andrew Jackson, January 1, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

ADAM HUNTSMAN TO JACKSON.1

1 Library of Congress, Donelson Papers. Copy, in handwriting of Andrew Jackson, jr. This letter, with Jackson's reply (Jan. 2, 1837, *post*), was published in the newspapers of the day. See *Niles' Register*, LII. 296, 297. Huntsman was M. C. from Tennessee 1835–1837

Washington, January 1, 1837.

Dear Sir, In a speech which was made by Judge White at Jonesboro, Tenne., and which has been published in the papers of that state and elsewhere, He stated in substance (I have not the speech before me) that you was asked how I stood in relation to the Administration and the coming election for President, and that your reply was, I do not know how he stands, *I believe he is on the fence, and it is uncertain which side he will drop.*

The first time I saw Judge White after the Publication of his speech, I requested to know who was his author in regard to the expression you was said to have made. He gave me the name of Mr. Obrian, of Washington County, Tenn. as the person who heard you make the expression. It seems that one of my Colleagues, and an honourable member from Virginia, has thought proper to reiterate this charge upon the floor of Congress in the discussion of a question now pending, and undetermined in the House of Representatives. Not having any acquaintance with Mr O Brien, and having some doubts in regard to the accuracy of his statement, I hope you will not deem it disrespectful in me to ask from you a refutation or confirmation of it. I know sir that the weighty affairs of Government which

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draw so largely upon your time and attention leaves you but little time to attend to small matters like this. Yet it has become one of considerable importance to me, or it has been made so through the agency of others. As I do not consider that I occupied the doubtful position assigned me, and having no reason to believe you would knowingly do me the least injury or injustice, I ask with the more confidence your answer, as early as it may be Convenient.

With sentiments of respect I have the honour to be